

PUBLIC NOTICE
DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (DUA) BENEFITS AVAILABLE

The State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) announced today that the major disaster declaration made by President George W. Bush on October 17, 2006 due to damage resulting from the earthquake that occurred on October 15, 2006 has been amended to include the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program for the County of Hawaii. Individuals who are unemployed, including self-employed individuals, who were living or working in the affected areas at the time of the major disaster, or who are unemployed as a direct result of the major disaster and do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance, may be eligible for DUA benefits.

In addition to individuals who lost their jobs directly due to the earthquake, others who may be eligible for DUA may also include: (1) individuals who are unable to reach their job or self-employment location because they must travel through an affected area and are prevented from doing so by the disaster; (2) individuals who were to commence employment or self-employment but were prevented by the disaster; (3) individuals who became the breadwinner or major support for a household because of the death of the head of household due to the disaster; or (4) individuals who cannot work or perform services in self-employment because of an injury caused as a direct result of the disaster. Unemployment is a direct result of the major disaster if the individual's unemployment resulted from: (1) the physical damage or destruction of the place of employment; (2) the physical inaccessibility of the place of employment due to its closure by the federal, state, or local government in immediate response to the disaster; or (3) lack of work, or loss of revenues, if, prior to the disaster, the employer or self-employed business received at least a majority of its revenue or income from an entity in the major disaster area that was damaged or destroyed in the disaster or an entity in the major disaster area closed by the federal, state, or local government.

The DLIR urges all individuals who believe they qualify for DUA to apply as soon as possible. The deadline for filing DUA is 30 days after the date of this announcement; therefore, **DUA applications must be filed no later than December 29, 2006**. Individuals who are not affected now but may become unemployed later (for example, due to the water shortage caused by the earthquake damage) should file and establish their DUA claims immediately. DUA benefits may not be payable on untimely claims filed after December 29, 2006.

Individuals may apply by telephone by calling Hawaii Tele-Claim at 643-5555, or, visiting the nearest Unemployment Claims Office. Applicants should be prepared to provide copies of or bring the following to the Unemployment Claims Office: a picture ID and/or any document showing their social security number, and their federal income tax return for the calendar year 2005. If this document is not available, individuals should provide evidence of their calendar year 2005 income in the form of W2s, Form 1099s, pay stubs, and profit and loss statements.

For more detailed information regarding eligibility for DUA benefits, go to the DLIR website at <http://hawaii.gov/labor/ui/guidelines.shtml> or contact the nearest Unemployment Claims Office:

Hilo Claims Office, 1990 Kinoole St, Suite 101, Hilo, HI 96720, Ph: 974-4086.

Kona Claims Office, Ashikawa Bldg, 81-990 Halekii St, Suite 2090, Kealahou, HI 96750, Ph: 322-4822.

Re-employment services may also be obtained at the nearest One-Stop Center:

Hilo One-Stop Center, 1990 Kinoole St, Hilo, HI 96720, Ph: 981-2860

Kailua-Kona One-Stop Center, Kaiwi Square, 74-5565 Luhia St, Bldg. C, Bay 4, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740, Ph: 327-4770